



## FIVE FACTS ABOUT HOMELESS EDUCATION

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Students are considered homeless when they lack fixed, regular, and adequate housing. They may be runaway or throwaway youth, or temporarily share housing with others when they have nowhere else to go. They may also live in shelters, cars, abandoned buildings, or on the streets. Indiana schools identified approximately 8,000 homeless children and youth in the 2007-2008 school year.
- Homeless students may attend their school of origin or the school where they are temporarily staying. The school of origin is the school a student attended before becoming homeless or the school they last attended. For every school move they make, homeless students can lose 3-6 months of academic skill. Allowing students to remain in their schools of origin can help protect them from the effects of homelessness on learning.
- Homeless students are automatically eligible for educational and other related services. These include free breakfast and lunch, free textbooks, transportation to school of origin, and Title I. It can also include comparable services such as gifted and talented, vocational education, and before- or after-school programs.
- Every public school district, including charter schools, has a liaison to help address the needs of homeless students, assist with enrollment, and mediate disputes related to homelessness.
- As of the 2008-2009 school year, there are 17 school districts or consortia of districts receiving grants to provide extra supports to homeless students and collaborate with community partners. Another 11 districts receive grants to help cover the excess costs of providing transportation to schools of origin. Some funds have been available as natural disasters have increased homelessness.

For more information about homeless education, including frequently asked questions, visit:  
<http://ideanet.doe.state.in.us/alted/homelesslinkpg.html>. If you have questions, contact Christina Endres at [endres@doe.in.gov](mailto:endres@doe.in.gov) or 232-0548.

